Med report - the year 189

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which Messrs. Neal and Bosworth had offered to give.
—The recommendation was adopted.

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of presenting my report for the year 1894 as follows:—

VITAL STATISTICS. Area and Population.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area in acres | 3127 |
| Population (Census 1891) | 3939 |

Density of population $\frac{3939}{3127}$ = 1·14 per acre.

The District for the purpose of these statistics is divided into

| | |
|---|---|
| Daventry population | 3833 |
| Workhouse, average weekly number of inmates | 106 |
| Total | 3939 |

BIRTHS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Daventry | 109 | 51 males, 60 females. |
| Workhouse | 2 | |
| Total | 111 | |

Birth rate 28·17 per 1000. Death rate 23·35 per 1000.
Natural rate of increase 4·82 per 1000.

DEATHS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Daventry | 82 | rate per 1000 | 21·39 |
| Workhouse | 10 | | |
| Total | 92 | " " | 23·35 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuberculosis | 15 | rate per 1000 | 3·80 |
| * Zymotic Diseases | 15 | " | 3·80 |
| Heart Disease | 8 | " | 2·03 |
| Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Bronchitis | 7 | " | 1·77 |
| Influenza | 12 | " | 3·04 |
| Rheumatic fever | 1 | " | 0·25 |
| Injuries | 4 | " | 1·01 |
| Other causes | 30 | " | 7·61 |
| Total | 92 | | 23·31 |

*Zymotic Diseases.

| | Number of notified cases. | Number of deaths. |
|---|---|---|
| Whooping Cough | Not notifiable | 6 |
| Measles | do. | 7 |
| Membranous Croup | 2 | 2 |
| Diptheria | 5 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 15 |

| | Number of deaths. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 1 year | 22 | rate per 1000 | 5·58 |
| Between 1 and 5 years | 13 | " | 3·30 |
| " 5 and 15 " | 5 | " | 1·26 |
| " 15 and 25 " | 5 | " | 1·26 |
| " 25 and 65 " | 15 | " | 3·80 |
| Over 65 years of age | 32 | " | 8·12 |
| Total | 92 | | 23·32 |

Average age at death from all causes, 37·25.

The calculations are only made to two places of decimals, hence the very slight difference in the totals after the decimal point.

With reference to the foregoing statistics I proceed to remark as follows:

TUBERCULAR DISEASE (Consumption).—The returns show 15 deaths, 2 less than for 1893. I commented somewhat at length in my last annual report to you on the infectiousness of consumption and advised that certain precautionary measures should be adopted in these cases. I have nothing to add except to remind you of the importance of the subject.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Mortality 15, being 8 more than for the preceding year. There have been no cases of small pox, scarlet fever, typhoid fever or puerperal fever as compared with 21, 3, 1, and 1 respectively of these diseases in 1893.

(a) DIPTHERIA.—Five cases have been notified during the year without a death resulting; four of these occurred in one house, the disease having been contracted outside the Borough of Daventry. In the other instance the origin of the disease could not be definitely traced.

(b) MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Two cases were notified and both ended fatally. They occurred in adjoining houses, but there was an interval of three months between the cases. The origin of the disease was obscure.

(c) MEASLES.—During the latter half of the year this disease was epidemic to an alarming extent, and accounted for seven deaths. Acting upon my recommendation the schools were closed for three weeks in November. It appears however that this proceeding is of but small avail when affected children are allowed to mingle freely in and out of their homes—regardless of the consequences—with other children. The disease was contracted by one family in an adjoining village where it was epidemic and to this one source the whole outbreak is attributable. I cannot help expressing my opinion that the ... to prevent the spread of this—by no means innocent—disease is the strictest possible compulsory isolation and notification of all affected persons.

(d) WHOOPING COUGH.—The victims of this disease numbered 6 and the outbreak was diffused over the whole town. It is no uncommon thing for whooping cough to follow on measles, but in this instance I was aware of a few cases before measles made its appearance. It is very likely this disease was introduced from one of the surrounding villages where it had been extremely prevalent during the summer. My recommendations to prevent the spread of this disease are the same as for measles, but no half measures would be of any avail in the case of either disease.

(e) SCARLET FEVER.—No cases were notified in the Urban District of Daventry, but 9 cases were admitted from the Rural Sanitary District to the Sanatorium and all discharged cured. Certain repairs and additions are needed to this Hospital which I have previously reported to you.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS, AND PLEURISY.—The deaths from these diseases were only 7 as compared with 11 for 1893, the decrease being probably due to the diminished prevalence of influenza, a disease which is very prone to give rise to dangerous chest complications.

INFLUENZA, although infectious is not included under Zymotic diseases. It has caused 12 deaths as compared with 17 for preceding year. The epidemic of 1893 was hardly over when this year commenced and it was during the earlier months that most of the deaths from it occurred. There have, however, been a few cases of this disease at all times during the year although of a much milder description.

DRAINAGE of the Town including the part called Drayton. From time to time during the year together with the Inspector of Nuisances I made house to house visitations of the greater part of the Town and reported to you matters requiring attention, in some instances the Sanitary defects have been remedied but in a large number of cases the conditions remain unaltered. I advise that these receive the necessary attention with as little delay as possible, especially Drayton. On the 17th May I made a special report to you on the closet accomodation of the Foundry Place Schools.

WATER SUPPLY.—At intervals during the year I had samples of drinking water from various sources in the Town, but in no instance have I considered it necessary to advise you to send a sample for examination to a public anal... ...ly know that the quantity of water in ... ...r drinking purposes and for flushing the closets ... ...at many persons have to go a very long distance ... fetch it. This subject was dealt with in detail ... ...expert about a year ago, so I need not enter into it further, except to commend his report to your notice.

In conclusion I have to report that 12 nuisances have been abated during the year. The Lodging and Slaughter-houses regularly inspected and the occupiers required to keep them in proper Sanitary Condition as required by law. I also made a special report to you concerning the overcrowding of two work Rooms which had the desired effect of remedying the evil.

Gentlemen,
I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
CHAS. E. [illegible]

Daventry,
1 Feb., 1895.

A PUBLIC MORTUARY.

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